

REMARKS


The above-referenced application was filed on November 16, 2001, as a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/711,017, filed on November 13, 2000. The application as filed included twenty-five claims. Claims 11-25 have been canceled and are now the subject of pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/645,933.

In the outstanding final Office action, claims 1-3 and 5-9 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). In addition, claims 1-10 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). However, the Examiner was kind enough to offer suggestions for amendments which could be made to the claims to move the application toward allowance. Accordingly, by way of this amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the Examiner's recommendations. As this included incorporating the subject matter of claims 2 and 3, claims 2 and 3 are canceled, and claims 4, 7, and 8 are amended to be dependent on claim 1. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 1 and 4-10 are in condition for allowance and respectfully solicit same. Moreover, Applicants submit that no issue is raised herein, nor is any additional search required as the subject matter added to claim 1 was already pending as dependent claims, or considered by the examiner as indicated by his suggestions.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form or substance in an effort to advance this application to allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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